

54736 and 54737.

From Hobart, Tasmania. Seeds collected by Victor O. Fletcher, Newnham, near Launceston, and presented by L. A. Evans, Acting Director of Agriculture. Received March 9, 1922.

54736. DANTHONIA SETACEA R. Br. Poaceæ.

Wallaby grass.

"A good native grass." (*Evans.*)

A valuable perennial pasture grass frequently less than a foot high, common in many localities in Australia and New Zealand. The soft narrow leaves are mostly short and erect and either smooth or somewhat pubescent with spreading hairs. In the spring the dense, narrow, branching panicles glisten with white-haired flowering glumes.

The species of *Danthonia* are probably the most important economic grasses of New South Wales. In New Zealand they are recommended only for the poorer soils of the South Island; but in the North Island they are considered very valuable pasture grasses and are credited with carrying two sheep to the acre. In New South Wales the *Danthonia* grasses are commonest on the table-lands and slopes, where they constitute about 90 per cent of the dominant grasses in well-managed pasture, sometimes, indeed, monopolizing the whole situation. In coastal districts they are common in newly cleared areas, in scrub lands, and very often in well-worked fallowed fields. In the western districts they are just a little less abundant than on the slopes and table-lands. The *Danthonia* grasses can therefore be termed the commonest and most widely distributed grasses of New South Wales, and without them our pastoral industry would suffer considerably.

The *danthonias* are tussocky in habit, but they stool considerably and will stand a great amount of grazing. Some of the species are rather hairy, particularly those of the western plains, but evidently this is no drawback as far as palatability is concerned. During the hot summer months the grass dies off considerably, but can be revived in a wonderful manner by rain.

The value of the *Danthonia* grasses in respect to palatability, both for cattle and sheep, has been well proved by every stockman. The forms that grow abundantly in the coastal districts (*Danthonia longifolia* and *D. racemosa* types) fatten horses and dairy stock very quickly; while on the table-lands and slopes and in the interior some of the best sheep in New South Wales are raised on *Danthonia* grasses alone. Even when other grasses are completely dried up, the *danthonias* will produce a fair amount of greenness in the bottom growth, and it is due to such feed that the Riverina can carry excellent sheep during a dry spring and summer. (Adapted from *Bentham, Flora Australiensis*, vol. 7, p. 595, and *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*, vol. 31, p. 24.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 53115.

54737. THEMEDA AUSTRALIS (R. Br.) Stapf. Poaceæ. **Kangaroo grass.**

"*Kangaroo* grass is common in many places in Australia and grows to a great height when left unmolested for a time. A peculiarity of this grass, and one which seriously hinders its multiplication, is the fact that it bears in its large ornamental flower heads very few fertile seeds. If the farmer would only recognize this and remove his stock during spring and summer from the fields in which kangaroo grass has a hold, a valuable fodder grass would be conserved; otherwise, there is a serious danger of its being eaten out. The proof of this assertion can be seen by observing the rich growth of kangaroo grass within many railway inclosures, while without not a blade is to be seen. One would infer from its height (it sometimes grows tall enough to hide sheep) and consequent coarseness that it would not be favored by stock, but they are extremely partial to it." (*Journal of the Department of Agriculture of Victoria*, vol. 15, p. 713, under *Anthisteria imberbis*.)

54738. ALEURITES FORDII Hemsl. Euphorbiaceæ. **Tung-oil tree.**

From Pineville, La. Seeds presented by Albert R. Arey, superintendent, Alexandria National Cemetery. Received February 27, 1922.